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Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-21 (Canceled)

22. (Previously Presented): A method for connecting a user computer at a first location on a network with a second location on the network through use of a coded symbol having contained therein encoded information associated with routing information on the network to the second location thereover, comprising the steps of:

5   providing an input device, wherein the input device has associated therewith an input device ID;

extracting the encoded information from the coded symbol and decoding such extracted encoded information to provide decoded information;

inputting the decoded information and the input device ID to a defined port on the

10   user computer which has an existing first functionality associated with the operation of the user computer which is not the same functionality as the step of inputting the decoded information, such that the step of inputting comprises a second functionality, with the port of the user computer operable to accommodate for both the first and second functionality during operation thereof;

detecting operation under the second functionality when decoded information is

15   input to the port;

translating the second functionality to be compatible with the first functionality for input to the port; and

in response to the step of detecting, connecting to the second location utilizing the decoded information and the input device ID by the steps of:

20   interfacing the user computer through the network to an intermediate location on the network having a resource server and a resource database disposed thereat;

transmitting the decoded information and device ID to the intermediate location,

the database having stored therein a table of routing information and a

25   plurality of information for a plurality of second locations on the network, and each of

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the routing information associated with one or more of different decoded information,

wherein the resource database has stored therein information associated with the device ID and wherein the resource server is operable to extract the input device ID for storage thereof and use thereof to perform a predetermined commerce transaction,

comparing the received decoded information and device ID with the stored decoded information and, if there is a match, transmitting the associated routing information with the matched decoding information back to the user computer, and

connecting the user computer with the second location in accordance with the routing information transferred from the intermediate location.

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23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the network comprises the Internet.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the coded symbol comprises a bar code.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the bar code includes a UPC.

26. (Previously Presented): The method of Claim 24, wherein the bar code includes coded therein an ISBN code.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 24, wherein the bar code contains therein an EAN code.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the coded symbol is disposed on a product.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 28, wherein the encoded information

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comprises information related to the product and is unique thereto.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the coded symbol comprises an optical symbol and the step of extracting comprises optically scanning the encoded information.

31. (Canceled)

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22, wherein the step of inputting comprises the steps of:

    providing a wedge having a first input operating in accordance with the first functionality and a second input operating in accordance with the second functionality and a single output for being connected to the port of the user computer;

    receiving the encoded information at the second input and decoding the received encoded information to provide decoded information at the single output of the wedge; and

    converting the second functionality to the first functionality with the encoded information thereon and transmitting it to the single output port thereof.

34. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 33, wherein the first functionality comprises a keyboard port and a second functionality comprises an optical scanner operation for scanning the coded symbol, which coded symbol is an optical symbol.